



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 534

February Session, 2010

Substitute House Bill No. 5111

House of Representatives, April 14, 2010

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. GERAGOSIAN of the 25th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE CARE PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 17b-349e of the 2010 supplement
2 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in
3 lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

4 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall operate a program,
5 within available appropriations, to provide respite care services for
6 caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, provided such
7 individuals with Alzheimer's disease meet the requirements set forth
8 in subsection (c) of this section. Such respite care services may include,
9 but need not be limited to (1) homemaker services; (2) adult day care;
10 (3) temporary care in a licensed medical facility; (4) home-health care;
11 (5) companion services; or (6) personal care assistant services. Such
12 respite care services may be administered directly by the department,
13 or through contracts for services with providers of such services, or by

14 means of direct subsidy to caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's
15 disease to purchase such services. The Commissioner of Social Services
16 shall expend the entire annual appropriation made to such program on
17 the provision of such respite care services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	July 1, 2010	17b-349e(b)
-----------	--------------	-------------

AGE *Joint Favorable C/R* HS

HS *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R* APP

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect
Department of Social Services	GF - See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Social Services to fully expend its annual appropriation for the Alzheimer's Respite program. Currently, this program has an appropriation of \$2,294,388 in each year of the biennium. This provision may limit the ability of the executive branch to meet its responsibility to achieve savings via the Governor's rescission authority or other mandated budget reduction measures. For example, in FY 10 enrollment for the Alzheimer's Respite program was closed, resulting in a projected savings of \$1 million.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5111*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE CARE PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill removes the requirement that the Department of Social Services (DSS) operate an Alzheimer's respite care program within the limits of available appropriations. Because the law requires DSS to operate this program, the bill could require it to reallocate funds from other programs or incur a deficiency.

The program provides funds (up to \$3,500 a year) for homemaker, companion, adult day care, home-health, or personal care assistant services or out-of-home care that permits people to take time off from caring for individuals with Alzheimer's disease. To be eligible for the program, the person with Alzheimer's disease must have an annual income under \$41,000 and under \$109,000 in liquid assets. The program has been closed to new applicants since May 2009.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2010

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Aging

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 11 Nay 0 (02/18/2010)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 15 Nay 3 (03/04/2010)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 51 Nay 4 (04/01/2010)